

Message Text

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SUBJ: RED:ECAFE: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE,
22ND SESSION, JAN 15-22, 74. BANGKOK, REPORT #2

REF : STATE 11652

DEPT. PASS DOT BRONEZ AND MARAD GAGE

1. SUMMARY: THIS SECOND REPORT DESCRIBES HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS IN FOLLOWING AREAS: A) WATER TRANSPORT, PORTS, SHIPPING AND CONTAINERIZATION; B) GENERAL TRANSPORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; C) TOURISM AND FACILITATION; D) TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES AND E) WORK PROGRAM. AN INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE SOVIET INVITATION TO MEMBER COUNTRIES TO JOIN INTERSPUTNIK, THE SOVIET TELECOMMUNICATION SATELLITE ORGANIZATION.

2. WATER TRANSPORT, PORTS, SHIPPING AND CONTAINERIZATION: IN ACCEPTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF WATER TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THE DIFFICULTY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE REGION EXPERIENCING TRYING OBTAIN CREDIT ON SOFT TERMS TO EXPAND OR MODERNIZE THEIR SHIPPING FLEETS. SECRETARIAT AND NUMBER DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES FREQUENTLY MADE REFERENCE TO FACT THAT MERCHANT FLEET OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN REGION
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AMOUNT TO ONLY 2.7 PERCENT OF GROSS TONNAGE.

IN ANTICIPATION OF LENGTHY AND HEATED DEBATE ON QUESTION OF DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHIPPING MATTERS BETWEEN TRADE COMMITTEE AND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, THE CHIEF, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION, WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE DELEGATIONS NOT TO DISCUSS THIS ITEM AT THIS MEETING. HE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE TWO COMMITTEES. HE ALSO READ STATEMENT FROM DRAFT REPORT OF TRADE COMMITTEE WHICH STATED RESPONSIBILITIES IN AREA SHIPPING SHOULD BE LEFT IN ABEYANCE UNTIL NEXT PLENARY MEETING IN COLOMBO IN MARCH 1974.

ON PROBLEMS OF SUITABILITY OF SHIPS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING INDIA, BANGLADESH AND INDONESIA URGED THE SECRETARIAT TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ESTABLISH WORKING GROUPS AND HOLD SEMINARS TO ASCERTAIN AND ASSESS BEST ALTERNATIVES FOR THEIR SITUATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED SETTING UP WORKING GROUP EARLY TO EVALUATE MERITS OF VARIOUS TYPES OF SHIPS AND THEIR SUITABILITY FOR TRADE OF REGIONS' DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED WORKING GROUP BE FOLLOWED WITH SEMINAR TO FORMULATE POLICY GUIDANCE THIS REGARD.

THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EXPERTS PROVIDED BY US, JAPAN AND UK FOR ROVING MISSION ON CONTAINERIZATION. BANGLADESH FOLLOWED BY OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED THE CONVENING OF A WORKING PARTY ON CONTAINERIZATION IN 1975 TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF THE ROVING MISSION. BANGLADESH WANTED TO AVAIL ITSELF OF THE ROVING MISSION IN THE INTERIM. THE SECRETARIAT INFORMED THE COMMITTEE OF A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY TASK FORCE IN FIELD OF SHIPPING AND PORTS IN ASIA LATER IN 1974 UNDER JOINT SPONSORSHIP OF ECAFE, UNCTAD, UNDP AND OTHER UN BODIES. LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE TASK FORCE WOULD BE ASSIST ESTABLISHING OR STRENGTHENING SHIPPING INFRASTRUCTURE, RESEARCH, METHODS OF PRACTICE, REDUCING OCEAN TRANSPORT COSTS AND IMPROVING SHIPPING AND PORTS. THE NETHERLANDS OFFERED TO REACTIVATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FIELD OF DREDGING PROVIDED RECIPIENT COUNTRIES WOULD AGREE TO DEFRAY PORTION OF COST SUCH ASSISTANCE.

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THE NETHERLANDS ALSO RECOMMENDED UTILIZATION RAPORTEURS AS IS DONE IN ECE TO STUDY VARIOUS PROBLEMS AND REPORT HIS FINDINGS TO COMMITTEE. VERY LITTLE INTEREST WAS SHOWN IN THIS RECOMMENDATION.

3. GENERAL TRANSPORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: THE NETHERLANDS REITERATED THEIR PROPOSAL OF LAST YEAR TO ESTABLISH A COUNCIL OF ASIAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT ON THE

PATTERN OF THE EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT. THE US DELEGATION RECOMMENDED THAT A MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BE CALLED ONLY AS AND WHEN NECESSARY TO CONSIDER PROGRAMS THAT REQUIRE HIGHEST POLICY LEVELS FOR ACTION.

4. TOURISM AND FACILITATION: AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS, THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO SEPARATE TOURISM AND FACILITATION ACTIVITIES. THE US DELEGATION'S COMMENTS ON ENERGY CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION WAS WELL RECEIVED AND ENDORSED BY A NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE UK OFFERED TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITATION ORGANIZATION ALONG LINES OF SITPRO MODEL. WITH REPORT TO SIMPLIFICATION AND STANDARDIZATION DOCUMENTATION, COMMITTEE NOTED EFFORTS OF SECRETARIAT TO ESTABLISH ROVING MISSION OF EXPERTS AND THE UK OFFER. IT ALSO NOTED POSSIBILITY OF US ASSISTANCE.

5. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES: COMMITTEE NOTED PROGRESS ACHIEVED ON IMPLEMENTATION ASIAN TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK WITH ASSISTANCE OF ITU AND SUPPORTED NEED UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY SURVEY FOR PACIFIC AREA. NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING BANGLADESH, KHMER REPUBLIC AND BURMA RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING FACILITIES.

THE USSR REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED DELEGATES OF ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERSPUTNIK, A NEW INTERNATIONAL SPACE COMMUNICATION ORGANIZATION BY NINE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES INCLUDING BULGARIA AND CUBA AND INVITED ECAFE MEMBERS JOIN ORGANIZATION ON BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY. AIM OF ORGANIZATION IS TO ENSURE COOPERATION OF EFFORTS OF COUNTRIES IN DESIGN, ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SATELLITES. THE USSR REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THAT COUNTRIES WISHING TO JOIN
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